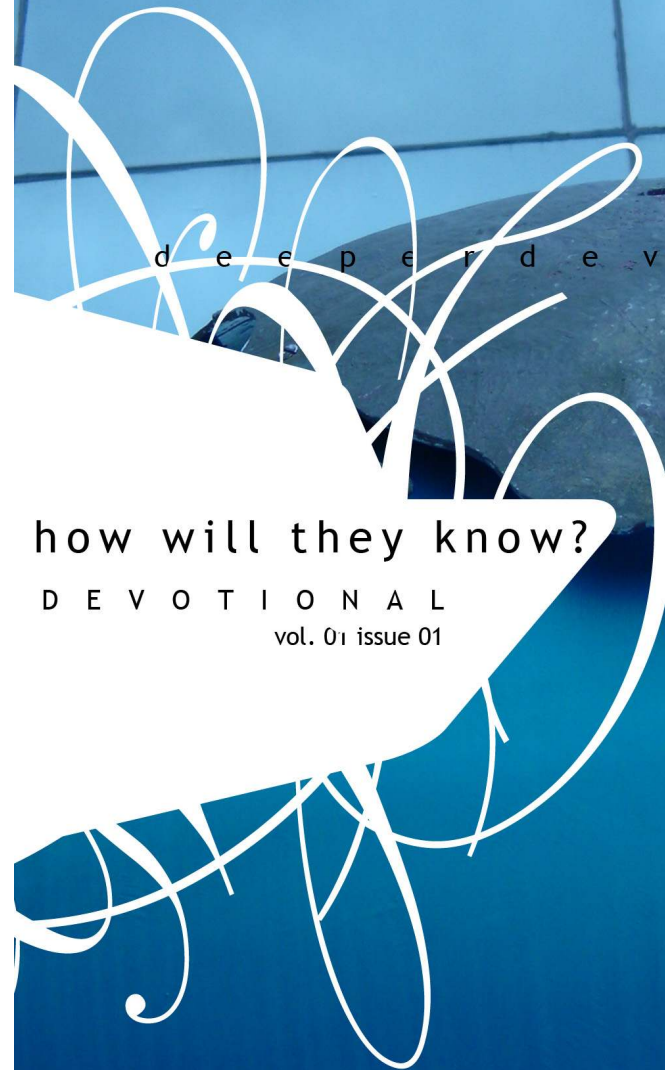




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d e e p e r d e v o t i o n

how will they know?

D E V O T I O N A L

vol. 01 issue 01





About Deeper Devotion

Our History

Deeper Devotion Student Ministries was started on September 1, 2002 with the purpose of encouraging students to know God more intimately. We believe that Deeper Devotion belongs to the Lord and are honored that He would entrust this ministry to us.

Our Desire

Our desire is that the Lord would use this ministry to develop a deeper relationship with his children, specifically youth and young adults. Currently we are dedicated to developing meaningful daily devotions and an atmosphere that would encourage prayer and supplication among God's children. In the near future we hope to develop further resources for both youth and youth workers alike.

Our Purpose Statement

We challenge and equip desiring students to be grounded in Scripture, walk in the Spirit and live lives of abundance and impact.

"I pray that out of His glorious riches He may strengthen you with power through His Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge--that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God." (Ephesians 3:16-19)

Passion From The Heart Day Five

Romans 10:1

Brethren, my heart's desire and my prayer to God for them is for their salvation.

Your heart needs to be burdened for those that don't know the Lord in an intimate manner. The world you live in is not ignorant of spiritual things. New age, the occult, popular cults, and endless false doctrines have captivated every mind from the student to the retired doctor.

They are surrounded by friends and family who know the Lord no better than they do. Who will pray for them if you fail to intercede? Who will bring the name of Jesus to them but you?

The apostle Paul had a passion to lead people to their only hope for salvation. At the time he wrote Romans, there were just as many false roads to Heaven as there are today. Paul knew that Jesus Christ was the only true way. His amazing passion dictated his words and his actions, but it was born in his heart.

How is your heart? Do you feel an urgency to share the true gospel? Does it hurt to envision your friends and family spending eternity without God? I pray that the Lord would do a work in your heart today. I pray that the same passion Paul experienced would swell up inside of you and burst into the world around you.

Any genuine change of habit must be born out of a change of heart.

You: God's Voice

Day Four

Ephesians 3:8

To me, the very least of all saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unfathomable riches of Christ.

The Apostle Paul had a deep compassion that wasn't dictated by certain people groups or traditions. His overwhelming burden for people of all nations is witnessed as he writes to the Ephesians about the joy he has obtained in his calling. In verse seven, Paul reminds his readers that his conversion and calling as a minister was by nothing other than the "gift of God's grace which was given to me according to the working of His power." Verse eight is the result of Paul's understanding that this same gift which came to him through the power of God, has now been entrusted to him, the least of all saints, to preach to the Gentiles. Paul was a man who recognized the importance of God's call on his life.

The "Great Commission" is recorded in one form or another at the end of every Gospel in the New Testament. The last words Jesus spoke to the church before ascending into Heaven are recorded in Acts 1:8. "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth." This is God's call on your life. Have you entered into a relationship with Christ? Have you had the Holy Spirit become a part of your life? If the next step is sharing your faith with others, why do you think it is so hard to do this? Is it possible that you have not yet understood the magnitude of your calling?

Who are you to share the love of Christ Jesus with others? Who are you to become the voice of God in the life of a sinful person? You are a child of the Living God, that's who! Your authority and commission is "according to the gift of God's grace which was given to [you] according to the working of His power!" You will never become an effective witness until you understand that the very ability to be a witness is "the gift of God's grace." Do you understand? Are you grateful for that grace yet? Let's go out and spread it!

I challenge you to be purposeful in your actions today. Remember that God's grace has not only given you salvation, but the ability to share that salvation with those you meet.

God Can Use You

Day One

1 Timothy 1:15

This is a true saying, and everyone should believe it: "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners" – and I was the worst of them all.

On a lunch break one day, I was surfing on the web looking for some encouragement on a church website. I came across a section that was called "My God Story", where people wrote their stories of how God came in and radically changed their lives. Story after story illustrated God's obvious hand in what almost seemed a hopeless situation. It painted the picture of a God who is completely aware of everything that is going on and that out of love comes in and redeems someone that the world would otherwise probably deem useless. To top things off, in these stories, he not only saves their souls, but he leads them to be used by him...often in a place of ministry!

How exciting to realize that God can and wants to use us! He can and wants to work in us! He even used Paul ("the worst of them all") to let the Gentiles know that they too could know Christ!! If anyone had a feeling that he was unusable to God, it was Paul. Paul, who persecuted God's people and in essence was persecuting God himself, came to know God and became one of the godliest men of all time. How? By letting God do the work through him.

So how about you? Do you feel like you've messed up too much to be used by God? Perfect! As long as you are living in humble submission to him and you have let him turn your life around, than be prepared to be used! He wants to use you, whether it is to lead a large group of people into knowing God more, or to simply smile at someone and add a little warmth into their day. Don't miss out on the opportunities God may have lined up for you today!

Go and serve with all of your heart, trusting that God is pleased in using even you!

It's Not Your Light

Day Two

Matthew 5:16

Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in Heaven.

"Let there be light." These were the first words spoken by our Father at the beginning of Creation. Proclaiming Him as "The light of the world," John captures our Lord's brilliance in the opening chapter of his gospel. In Heaven, we know that there will be no sun; the presence of God will be our eternal light.

Jesus has commanded you to let your light shine before men. The light to which He's referring comes not from a brilliance of your own making, but from the presence of the Holy Spirit dwelling within you. The presence of the same Father of Lights mentioned in the letter of James.

This radiation is a constant factor. It's a light that cannot be hidden. It shines forth from your bedroom at night, from your locker in the hallway. It is with you when you're alone and when you're with your boyfriend or girlfriend. It's a city on a hill, not able to be hidden.

It is for this reason that you must make sure your light shines in a way that others may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in Heaven. The light they see is not your own. It's your Father's and it must be shown in a way that brings glory to His name.

How will people respond to your light today? Will you be ready if someone looks to respond? Are you even aware of which direction your light is shining, or have you forgotten this command of Christ all together?

Be purposeful in how you live today, "For you were formerly darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light" (Ephesians 5:8).

How Will They Know?

Day Three

Romans 10:14

How then shall they call upon Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?

People you and I see each and every day are living a life enslaved to sin. This sin will one day lead them to an eternity in Hell. Without the saving grace that we have accepted as a free gift from God, no one can escape this biblical truth. Referring not to a physical death, but to a spiritual death, forever separated from God, Romans 6:23 proclaims, "For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." As you were once ignorant of this grace, the only way the lost will ever know of the gift Christ provided for us, by dying on the cross, is if someone explains it to them. This is what passionately inspires Paul to write, "How then shall they call upon Him of whom they have not heard?"

We are commanded by Christ Himself to spread His message of salvation to all we know. Matthew 28:19 says, "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit." The word "go", as Jesus spoke it, carries the understanding of "as you go". This means that we are to daily "make disciples" as we go about our normal business. "How will they believe in Him who they have not heard?" It is our duty to express the salvation of Christ to everyone we meet. This is to be made known through our words and our actions. Not only must you tell others of what Jesus did for them on the cross, but you must also be an example of Jesus in your actions. What good is it to confess Christ with your lips, yet deny Him with your lifestyle? It is no good at all. Jesus' feelings towards "luke-warm" Christians is displayed in Revelation 3:16. He says, "So because you are luke-warm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of My mouth."

I pray that you would not forget the grace that has been shown to you. I pray that you would never fail to remember the first moment Christ's salvation was explained to you. This must be our passion and our reason for living: to spread the saving grace of our Lord Jesus Christ to those who don't know.

How beautiful are the feet of those who bring glad tidings of good things!